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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,843	03/30/2004	Hiroaki Kato	250909US2	2324
22850	7590	04/24/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				NGUYEN, TAN QUANG
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3661		
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/24/2007	ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/24/2007.

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oblonpat@oblon.com  
jgardner@oblon.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/811,843	KATO ET AL.
	Examiner TAN Q. NGUYEN	Art Unit 3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2004.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-11 and 16-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,12 and 13 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 3,4,14 and 15 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/18/05, 7/25/06, 11/07/06.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAIL ACTION

### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-12 are pending.
2. The prior arts submitted on July 18, 2005, July 25, 2006 and November 07, 2006 have been considered.
3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which have been placed of record in the file.
4. Claims 14 and 15 should be depended on claims 12 instead of 6 because these claims are the apparatus claims. Correction is required. For the rejection below, it is assumed that claims 14 and 15 depend on claim 12.
5. Claims 5-11 and 16-23 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and/or cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 5-11 and 16-13 have not been further treated on the merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamwaki et al. (6,091,214).

8. Yamawaki et al. disclose the invention as claimed which includes a control unit comprising a slip angle difference predicting section for predicting a difference between a slip angle of front wheels and a slip angle of rear wheels, and a correcting section for correcting a target torque signal supplied to the motor (see at least the abstract, figures 2-5 and the related text).

9. Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. None of the prior art of record disclose the steering characteristic determination step in which even if the behavior amount falls under the under-steer characteristic, if it exceeds a predetermined under-steer determination value in the vicinity of neutral steer determination value while the behavior amount differentiated value is positive, it is determined that the steering characteristic is over-steer, and under-steer characteristic determination step in which even if the behavior amount falls under the over-steer characteristic, if it is below a predetermined over-steer determination value in the vicinity of neutral steer determination value while the behavior amount differentiated value is negative, it is determined that the steering characteristic is under-steer.

### ***Conclusion***

10. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are rejected. Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are objected.

Claims 5-11 and 16-23 have not been further treated on the merits.

11. The following references are cited as being of general interest: Ito et al. (5,267,160), Matsuno et al. (5,737,714), Nishizaki et al. (6,415,215) and Holler (6,954,140).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tan Q. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-6966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (571) 272-6956.

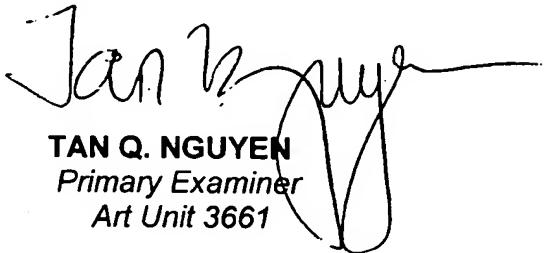
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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or faxed to the Official Fax Center: (571) 273-8300.

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/tqn  
April 15, 2007

  
TAN Q. NGUYEN  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3661